

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 06869 301249Z

44

ACTION ABF-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 A-01 ( ISO ) W

----- 008933

R 301209Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4556

INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

S E C R E T BRUSSELS 6869

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, MARR, MMOL

SUBJECT: GAO REQUEST FOR CLASSIFIED INFORMATION ON BELGIAN ARMED  
FORCES

1. ON JUNE 9, 1975 AMBASSADOR RECEIVED LETTER FROM FRANK C. CONAHAN, DIRECTOR U.S. GAO INTERNATIONAL DIVISION, EUROPEAN BRANCH, LOCATED AT USCG FRANKFURT, ANNOUNCING THAT GAO, RESPONDING TO CONGRESSIONAL REQUESTS, HAD INITIATED "A REVIEW OF THE FACTORS RELATING TO THE PROCUREMENT OF THE XM1 TANK (CODE 951170/951177)." LETTER REQUESTED EMBASSY ASSISTANCE TO GAO INQUIRY, IF CALLED UPON.

2. GAO TEAM VISITED BRUSSELS AREA IN JULY AND DECLARED ITSELF SATISFIED WITH INFORMATION OBTAINED. HOWEVER, ON JULY 25 GAO OFFICE IN FRANKFURT (.4. JAMES A. FOWLER) TELEPHONED EMBASSY MAAG WITH REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON ORGANIZATION AND EQUIPMENT OF BELGIAN ARMORED AND INFANTRY MECHANIZED UNITS. THIS INFORMATION IS CLASSIFIED BY BELGIAN GOVERNMENT. IT IS AVAILABLE TO NATO IN DPQ CLASSIFIED NATO SECRET. GAO FRANKFURT ASKS THAT AMEBASY TURN OVER INFORMATION TO IT OR, ALTERNATIVELY, THAT IT ASSIST GAO IN OBTAINING THE DATA FROM BELGIAN MOD.

3. WE ARE INFORMED BY USNATO THAT THIS INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AT NATO REGISTRY IN WASHINGTON TO PROPERLY CLARED INDIVIDUALS.

4. USNATO HAS MADE KNOWN TO EMBASSY CONTENT TO STATE 136818. INSTRUCTION IN PARAGRAPH 3 THEREOF DOES NOT PROVIDE GUIDANCE  
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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 06869 301249Z

FOR PRESENT PRLBLEM. EMBASSY CONSIDERS ITSELF UNABLE TO RELEASE

MILITARY INFORMATION CLASSIFIED BY BELGIAN GOVERNMENT  
OR BY NATO. WE ARE LOATHE TO ASK BELGIAN GOVERNMENT TO RELEASE  
SUCH INFORMATION UNLESS SO DIRECTED BY THE DEPARTMENT.  
REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS ASAP.FIRESTONE

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INSTRUCTIONS, CLASSIFIED INFORMATION, FORCE & TROOP LEVELS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 30 JUL 1975  
**Decapton Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decapton Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975BRUSSE06869  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750263-0546  
**From:** BRUSSELS  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 22 APR 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <22 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <23 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GAO REQUEST FOR CLASSIFIED INFORMATION ON BELGIAN ARMED FORCES  
**TAGS:** MARR, MMOL, BE, NATO, (CONAHAN, FRANK C)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006